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On the north or highest of the two points of Williamlaw, and near the summit, are two broad indistinct terraces, whose surfaces slope considerably towards the southern or lowest point, and also to the west. The crest between the two points is a succession of low eminences and intermediate furrows, which have no connexion with any of the terraces, but are formed of the basset edges of the harder beds. As the dip and strike of these correspond in the main with those of the slanting ridges below, and as they are separated by similar smooth grassy hollows, there can be no doubt but the cause assigned by Mr. Kemp for the latter, is the true one.

At the south foot of Williamlaw, on the opposite bank of the Gala, is a broad level grassy plain, formed of diluvium at the time the whole valley was under water, and subsequently cut through by the existing stream. It reminded me strongly of the true terraces near the head of Glen Roy.

Having now stated, as clearly as I can, the observations that occurred to me on a hasty view of these terraces, I have only to express a hope that more competent geologists may be induced to examine them in greater detail. Whether the theory proposed by Mr. Kemp be the true one or not, the merit of having first discovered, and then worked them out with such ability and perseverance, will ever be his own. No one will rejoice more than myself to see my objections answered, and a cause assigned that shall explain the difficulties and harmonize with all existing appearances. Nor is this all; the complete explanation of any set of natural phænomena, lessens the difficulty of comprehending others, still obscure, to which they are allied; and is another step in advance towards the future solution of the grand problem, the aggregate causes that have produced the existing state of things upon our globe.

J. E. BOWMAN.

Manchester, October 10, 1840.

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On these points the information given is no doubt accurate; but conclusions drawn from the mere circumstance of species not having been noticed in particular districts are seldom to be relied upon until the statements have been some time before the public without being called in question. For example, *Rosa rubiginosa* is quoted by Professor Phillips in the introductory essay as confined in Yorkshire to the north-eastern or oolitic hills, but a supplement to the work returns it as occurring at Conisbro' in the south-western district, and we have ourselves found it truly wild within a few miles of York, in the great central vale. Speaking of this latter district, Professor Phillips remarks, "that receiving from numerous streams the detritus of the uplands lying east and west, the vale of York is full of plants which seem derived from these districts, as well as others more commonly found in lower ground. Its flora is consequently very rich, and plants supposed to characterize different soils grow here near together." It is, indeed, very striking to see in low moist fields over this plain plants usually stated to be peculiar to limestone or chalk, and to see them here attaining a magnitude and luxuriance, which they seldom approach in their more appropriate stations; but the soil will be found everywhere to abound with lime, so that the fact confirms the opinion (could it be supposed to need any confirmation) that certain plants require the presence of this substance for their healthful growth. *Campanula glomerata*, *Orchis ustulata*, which attains to remarkable size and beauty, and *Poterium Sanguisorba*, here growing abundantly in moist fields subject to frequent overflows, (though only mentioned by Mr. Baines as appearing on limestone rocks and the chalk wolds) are instances of proper limestone plants which abound in this district.

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Arabis hispida (*petræa* of DeCandolle) can only be said to be peculiar to Yorkshire, speaking of England, exclusively of Wales as well as Scotland, and *Juncus polycephalus* belongs to the highlands of Scotland. The presence of these plants shows that Yorkshire has a more alpine character than any other district of England, not even excepting the Cumberland and Westmoreland mountains.

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Among the plants added on the authority of Mr. Gibson of Hebdenbridge, we observe *Stipa pennata*, the feather-grass, said to be found on Rumbald's Moor. We are not aware that this plant has been found wild in Britain, since its alleged discovery in Long Sleedale, Westmoreland, by Dr. Richardson, published by Dillenius; and as nobody has met with it since, though it is so remarkable and conspicuous, either in the station given or elsewhere (and we have ourselves, like many other botanists, searched Long Sleedale with great care expressly with this object in view), it has generally been concluded that Dr. Richardson fell into a mistake. The present discovery is very interesting, if liable to no doubt, but it requires to be supported by good evidence. Not inferior to this in interest is the addition of *Cinclidium Stygium*, a moss previously known as a native of the north of Europe and America, and very lately announced as British, which here, we believe, for the first time takes its place in a native flora.

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A Flora of Shropshire. By W. A. Leighton, Esq., B.A., &c. 1 vol. 8vo. 1840. Shrewsbury.

We look upon the appearance of this work (which is now completed by the publication of the 3rd part) as being a great step in advance in the progress of British indigenous botany; for although it is professedly confined to the description of the plants of a single county, yet as clearly showing the incorrectness of the idea "that a *new* Flora in the true sense of the term has become impossible," it is indispensable to every botanist who desires to obtain a thorough knowledge of our native plants. Since the publication of the 'English Flora' no work has appeared in which all the species are carefully and originally described; nor does any British book exist in which the descriptions are sufficiently detailed for the present wants of systematic botany; for in this latter respect, the celebrated work of Sir J. E. Smith is (from the date of its publication) necessarily deficient.

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The following plants appear for the first time as English plants in the present work:—

Atriplex deltoidea, *Bab.*
Ballotta ruderalis, *Fries.*
Callitriche platycarpa, *Kütz.*
Cardamine sylvatica, *Link.*
Cerasus austera, *Leight.*
Dianthus plumarius, *Linn.*

Myriophyllum alterniflorum, *DC.*
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In conclusion, we must observe, that the specific characters are often far longer than is desirable; that in making alterations in the nomenclature, the author has in some cases not sufficiently pointed out the reasons which have induced him to adopt different names from those employed by Smith and Hooker; we must, however, add, that in most instances we are acquainted with causes fully authorizing the change. A more frequent reference to foreign authors would also have added much to the value of the book.

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PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

January 14, 1840.—William Yarrell, Esq., V.P., in the Chair.

Mr. Ogilby exhibited the skull of the Mangabay Monkey (*Cercopithecus Æthiops*, Auct.), and called the attention of the members present to the fact that this species, like the *C. fuliginosus*, differs from other Cercopithecini in possessing a fifth tubercle to the last molar of the lower jaw.

A variety of the common Hare (*Lepus timidus*, Auct.), shot in Sussex, and presented to the Society by Augustus E. Fuller, Esq.,

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